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provision for payment of stipends to trainees and for the conversion of the old-type *chekkus* into the Wardha-type *chekkus*. The total estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 1,87,500 non-recurring and Rs. 1,69,536 recurring. The proposal is under the active consideration of the Government.''

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—'' Sir, in the original question the word *ghanis* has been mentioned but in the answer of the Hon. Minister the word *chekkus* has been mentioned. I do not understand what these two terms mean? ''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' *Chekku* is செக்கு in Tamil.''

Shifting of the headquarters of the Agricultural Demonstrator, from Palladam to Tiruppur.

* 476 *Q.*—SRI S. R. ARUMUGHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the reasons for shifting the Agricultural Demonstrator's Office from Palladam to Tiruppur in Coimbatore district; and

(*b*) whether any representation was made to the Government to re-shift the same to Palladam and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' (*a*) The headquarters of the Agricultural Demonstrator was shifted by the Director of Agriculture from Palladam to Tiruppur as the latter place was more convenient from the administrative point of view.

'' (*b*) The Government have not received any representation.''

Appointment of village guides.

* 477 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many village guides were recently appointed by the Government; and

(*b*) their functions and qualifications?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' (*a*) One hundred and five Village Guides were recently appointed.

'' (*b*) The principal role of the Village Guide is to energise the life of the Village Community which has generally become stagnant and unresponsive to any change from the traditional pattern. His job is to get the villagers to think and talk about their problems, needs and desires. He should inspire village people to work to live better and also create in them a desire to learn how to live better, by exciting their interest to the findings and recommendation of science. In short the pivot of the Community Project Scheme is the Village Guide.

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The following qualifications are prescribed for the post of Village Guide :—

(1) A pass in the Matriculation or S.S.L.C. or an equivalent examination. Ex-service personnel who have secured a pass in the Indian Army Special Certificate of Education or Higher Education Test for the (Royal) Indian Navy or Indian Air Force Educational Test for Reclassification to leading Aircraftsman, are also eligible to apply for the posts. Work in a farm for a year or two in the case of ex-service personnel will be considered as a preferential qualification.

(2) The candidates must have completed 21 years of age and should not have completed 30 years of age.''

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—'' Are the Government aware that these village guides are indulging more in political propaganda than in really guiding these villagers? ''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' The Government are not aware of any such thing. But if the hon. Member brings any complaint against any particular village guide or group of village guides to the notice of the Government, they will look into the matter.''

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—'' The Hon. Minister stated in his answer that village guides are intended to teach people in the villages how to live a better life. May I know whether there is any test to find out whether village guides themselves are living in a better way and in a desirable way? ''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' The officers who supervise the work of these guides do look into that aspect of the question.''

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—'' இப்பொழுது கிராம சேவகர்கள் என்று சொல்லக்கூடியவர்கள் அகில இந்திய காதி நிலையத்தின் விற்பனை ஏஜெண்டுகளாக உபயோகப்படுத்தப்படுகிறார்கள் என்பது உண்மையா ? ''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' I do not know where the hon. Member has come across any village guide who is interesting himself in selling *khadi*. Even if that is so, it is not wrong as this *khadi* is produced by Government.''

SRI R. KRISHNASWAMI NAIDU :—'' கனம் மந்திரியவர்கள் குறிப்பிட்ட யோக்கியதை யில்லாதவர்களும் முன்னால் இந்த வேலைகளில் அமர்த்தப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்களே, அவர்களின் எதிர்கால நிலைமை என்ன ? அவர்களுடைய பதவிகாலம் நீடிக்கப்படுமா ? ''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' When the question of absorbing permanently those people who do not possess all these qualifications comes in, it will be considered whether they have now proved themselves quite fit for this purpose? ''

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Sri A. IYANAR :—" கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொல்லிய பதிலிலிருந்து 150 பேர் நியமிக்கப்பட்டிருப்பதாகத் தெரிகிறது. அதில் ஹரிஜனங்கள் எத்தனைபேர்கள் என்று அறியவிரும்புகிறேன்."

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" A separate question may be put as regards the number of Harijans working as village guides."

Starting of a sugar factory in Tiruchirappalli district.

* 478 *Q*.—Sri M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any application for a licence for starting an additional sugar factory in Tiruchirappalli; and

(*b*) if so, where it is likely to be located? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Apart from the existing sugar factory at Pugalur, the Government of India have granted a licence for the establishment of a new sugar factory at Pettaivaithalai in Tiruchirappalli district. No applications for starting additional sugar factories in the district have been received."

Sri M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" அந்த சர்க்கரை ஆலை நிறுவுவதற்கு எவ்வளவு காலம் ஆகும் என்பதைச் சர்க்கார் தெரிவிக்கமுடியுமா?"

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I know that arrangements are being made to install a plant there but I have no information as to when exactly it will start functioning."

Cashewnut plantation in the State.

11-20 a.m. * 479 *Q*.—Sri M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the extent of cashewnut plantation in the State in the current year (private and Government); and

(*b*) the annual yield expected?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The extent is 93,283 acres during the year 1953–54.

" (*b*) The yield is about 6,350 tons in terms of kernel in the same year."

Sri M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, in view of the fact that cashewnut is a dollar-earning product of our State and in view of the fact that growers of cashewnut are not getting reasonable prices for their produce, will the Government take suitable steps to see that they (cashewnut growers) get reasonable prices for their produce? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government are looking into the matter."